

# DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

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# What is a drug endangered child?

- A child experiencing neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse that is attributed to illicit drug use, drug trafficking (or sales), or drug manufacture of prescription drugs, marijuana, cocaine, or methamphetamine by caregivers.



# It's All About the Rescue



# Drugs, Money, Welfare Fraud

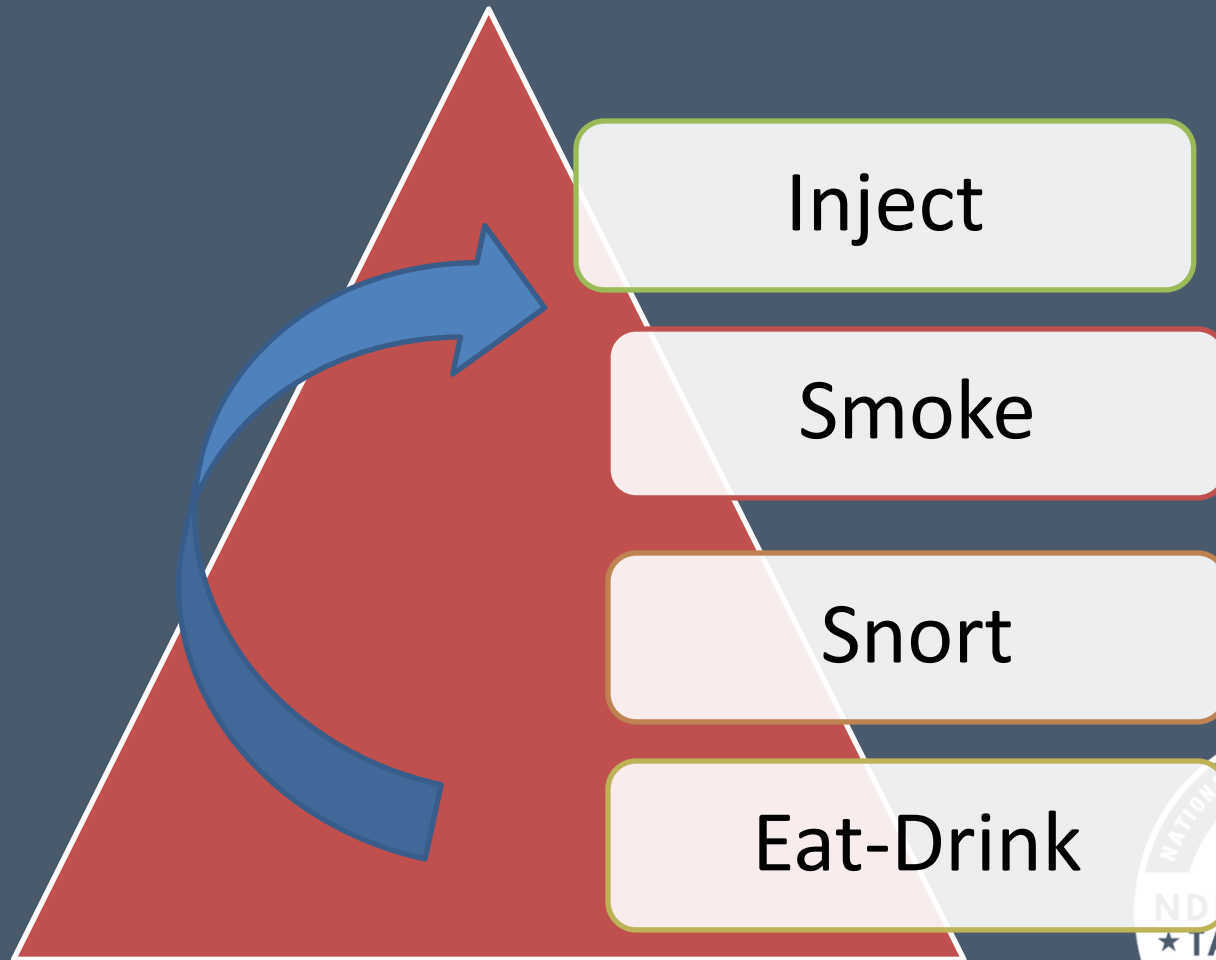


# Drugs, Guns, and Babies



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# Progression of Addiction



# The Methamphetamine Use Cycle & Associated Risks to Children

Neglect, Sexual Abuse,  
Strangers in the home

**Binge**  
1-14 days

Physical, sexual abuse,  
domestic violence

**Tweak**  
1-5 days

**Crash**  
1-4 days

Neglect



# DRCA

## Drug Related Child Abuse

- Children present as part of drug related crime
- Drugs not initiating factor, but discovered as secondary issue
  - Domestic Violence
  - Property Crimes
  - Smurfing
  - Gun/Bomb/Child Porn
- Drugs deemed to **impact safety of a child**



Nebulizer—

This child already had respiratory problems and the machine was being used to cook methamphetamine.



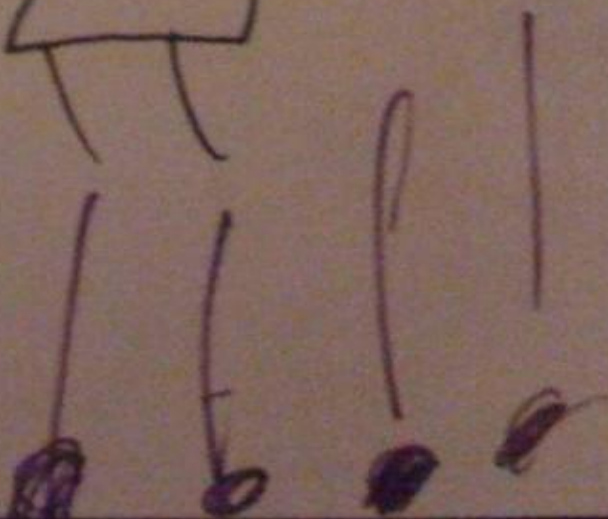
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Help us!!!

I Hate You



Help us



# Drug Home Characteristics

- Drug is priority for adults
- **Forced participation** in illegal activity
- **Health problems** due to exposure
- **Delayed treatment** for injuries
- **Lack of treatment** for injury
- Child as a pawn or currency
- Child forced to take on adult role
- Children deserve protection from neglect and abuse



# Medical Evidence Checklist

## DRUG RELATED CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL EVIDENCE CHECKLIST



### Medical tests:

- ☐ Check vital signs
- ☐ Collect urine sample (if not collected by law enforcement; check for detectable levels of THC, opiates, amphetamines, cocaine, etc.)
- ☐ Collect hair sample if required by local DEC protocol
- ☐ Full body scan-check for bruising, burns, muscle tenderness, and signs of pipe burns, needle sticks, etc.
- ☐ Complete physical exam-including oral scan and skin check to determine medical, nutritional, and physical neglect
- ☐ Other tests-to be done as medically indicated to include but may not be limited to:
- ☐ Sexual abuse exam
- ☐ STI screening
- ☐ HIV test
- ☐ Hydration level
- ☐ Blood pressure
- ☐ Bowel sounds
- ☐ Mental health screening
- ☐ Other/Follow-up needed-

### Circumstances of suspicion:

- ☐ Delayed treatment
- ☐ Unusual parental behavior
- ☐ History of parental substance abuse
- ☐ Sexual activity (including voluntary)
- ☐ Seizure
- ☐ Sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- ☐ Seizure
- ☐ Respiratory difficulty
- ☐ Increased BP
- ☐ Constipation
- ☐ Dehydration
- ☐ Fearfulness of child
- ☐ Over-attachment of child to staff
- ☐ Severe diaper rash
- ☐ Dried feces
- ☐ Poor hygiene
- ☐ Lice
- ☐ Scabies
- ☐ Cuts on feet
- ☐ Underweight
- ☐ Other-

If child abuse or environmental drug exposure is suspected, this must be reported to child protective services. Be sure to describe the harm to children in the categories of basic needs (food, clean water, clothing, medical care), safety (exposure to drug use, strangers), and emotional well-being (fear of parent, looking at parent before answering questions, asking to go home with staff). A copy of form and test results should be provided to child protection investigator and be maintained in the case file.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M/F Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Identified hazardous exposure (i.e., mold, animal feces, lack of water or food, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check to indicate knowledge of exposure to adult involvement in:	Known	Suspected
Marijuana grow		
Marijuana smoking		
IV drug use		
Clandestine drug production: methamphetamine		
Prescription drug abuse		
Cocaine/crack cocaine smoke		
Intranasal cocaine use (snorting)		
Other:		

Law Enforcement signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Suspected drug exposure: \_\_\_\_\_

Substance	Hair	Urine
THC	+/ -	+/ -
Cocaine	+/ -	+/ -
Opiates	+/ -	+/ -
Amphetamines	+/ -	+/ -
Methamphetamines	+/ -	+/ -
Methadone	+/ -	+/ -
Other:	+/ -	+/ -

Vital signs: BP \_\_\_\_\_ HR \_\_\_\_\_ RR \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ O<sub>2</sub> Sat \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tests: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date additional test results will be available: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation to ER or medical facility (law enforcement, social services, family, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Needed follow-up: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical provider signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Candace Alexander

Forcibly addicted to drugs by mom and step-dad who also sexually abused her.

Official cause of death: overdose.



Sometimes, the most dangerous thing  
a child can do is ask for help.



# The children tell us...

If I were  
President  
I would get  
a limit on

Rachel Panell



And help children  
that have parents that  
do drugs and put them  
in jail and find them  
some new parents.  
Rachel



Can YOU answer the following questions?

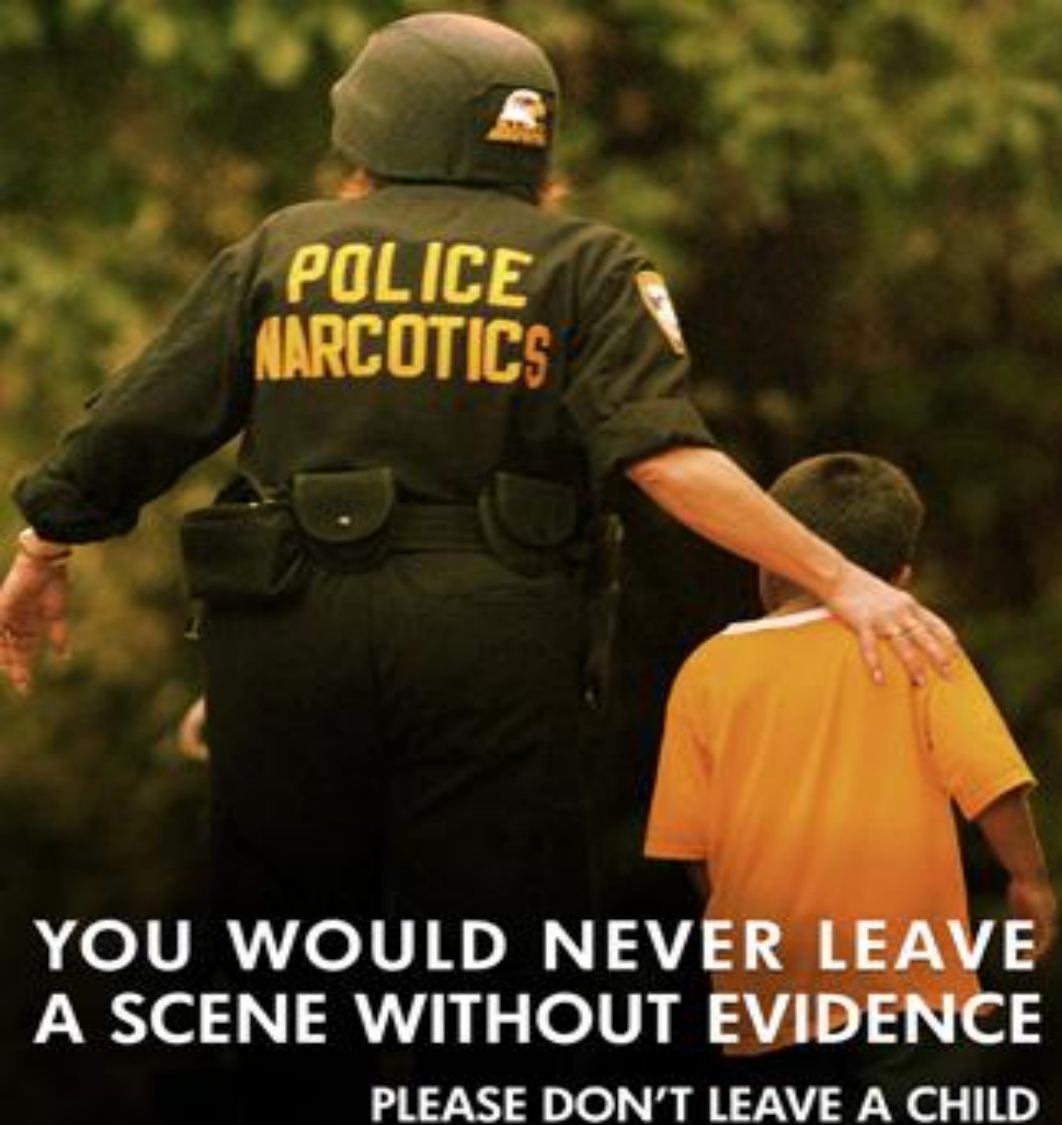


WHERE are the children?

HOW are the children?

WHAT can I do for the children?





**YOU WOULD NEVER LEAVE  
A SCENE WITHOUT EVIDENCE**  
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE A CHILD



[WWW.DRUGENDANGEREDCHILD.ORG](http://WWW.DRUGENDANGEREDCHILD.ORG)

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Their safety,  
**OUR**  
RESPONSIBILITY

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